

Aan de stadsdeelcommissie Amsterdam Noord  
t.a.v. het dagelijks bestuur en de commissieleden  
Buikslotermeerplein 2000  
1025 XL Amsterdam  
Amsterdam, 6 mei 2024  
Betreft: herontwikkeling Het Groene Veld  
Per email verstuurd:  
bestuursondersteuning.sdn@amsterdam.nl

Dear members of the district committee,

My name is Giada La Gala and I am a member of Het Groene Veld, where I rent a studio space. Here, I am building my artist practice, during the course of my studies at Sandberg Instituut, in the Artificial Times Master of fine arts.

Coming from a somewhat conservative upbringing in the poor south of Italy, I had to put on hold my dream to fully dedicate myself to art as a teenager. I have always been extremely curious and passionate about depth and detail, wanting to understand things thoroughly, especially when they become abstract and complex, therefore I started to study physics instead. ADM was a true discovery for me back in 2016, when I moved to Amsterdam to begin my PhD in quantum physics. Seeing how some of the ADM artists beautifully used science and technology to create amazing works of art was very inspiring for me. There you could hear the tails of the former Robodock festival and see the steam sculptures of Luca Minotti or the work of the Electric Circus to just name some of the truly inspiring works.

While science was meant as the way forward for my emancipation, I began to dedicate time to autonomous collectives and projects, since I was very young, working with several groups and collectives in Italy. Jamie Heckert in his article *Listening, caring, becoming: Anarchism as an ethics of direct relationships* argues that “security comes not from the fascist desire for sameness, or the unity of the state, but through connections which recognize and affirm difference as well as commonality.” I could not feel more represented then from these words, as I know that my real emancipation has happened by working at those projects,

which strive for independence and diversity, affirming community as a way of relating.

As the time went by, I have seen a strong push from higher political agendas to strongly diminish and suppress the autonomous movements, with varied tactics but by generally enlarging the focus on the faulty and imperfect aspects, while shifting it away from the priceless, invaluable social and creative powers. As we all know, in a diverse group this tactic only favors conservative thought. It is a pity to see that Amsterdam is also turning on this “sameness page”. For this reason, I would like to resort this committee to represent the voice of the locals of Amsterdam and especially Amsterdam Noord, which we know, love and support our creative space Het Groene Veld, imperfections and faults included.

In his book *Neuromagma*, Franco Berardi talks about the idea of cybertime and cyberspace to describe that state of the collective unconscious dominated by technology in postmodern society. Cyberspace is that space of possibilities and virtual connections that becomes more and more huge and humongous due to the internet and the possibilities it brings. The cybertime on the contrary does not grow but shrinks, representing the human (in-)possibility to digest and process knowledge and information. I believe that creating possibilities to experience with a slower sense of time in our current society is fundamentally necessary. The way to do that is to create authentic connections between people. Free spaces like Het Groene Veld are fundamental, where relationships are built slowly through cooperation, pleasure and meaning.

It is recognized that community and culture are essential to support good transformations. See for example the New European Bauhaus initiative looking for the cultural fabric to support European sustainability goals. However, if on one side those communities are being sought after in some place, at the same time they are being eradicated in another place. It has become urgent to defend these spaces. Communities like ecosystems are rare entities in a delicate equilibrium which need time to grow and flourish and those that are already functioning should serve as an example for more to be born.

After completing my PhD in physics, I decided to make an informed choice by spending more of my time on community and art, with the intention to carve a more encompassing understanding and wishing to create pockets of relieve with and for others. My current research project literarily revolves around Volcanoes, the unstoppable force of the globe’s underground, which erupt into local and powerful bursts all around the globe, representing local autonomous

communities. Volcano is also the Latin God of fire, metal work, craftsmanship and hearth, which are very close entities and practices that forged ADM and therefore now Het Groene Veld. I wish now for our little crater to keep being active!

Thank you and buon lavoro (werk ze)!

Dr. Giada La Gala